

THOUSAND ISLANDS ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

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The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

THOUSAND ISLANDS *and*
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER



“The VENICE of AMERICA.”

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THOUSAND ISLANDS and THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

The St. Lawrence River, at its upper end, broadens out to the proportions of a Lake fifteen miles wide at the west end and about four miles wide at the central part. In this "lake" are the Thousand Islands, christened by the early French, who had ownership before the English, as "Les Mille Isles." The English designated it as "The Lake of a Thousand Islands." It was known to the Indians as "Monatoana" or "Garden of the Great Spirit."

The region was one of the battle grounds of our early wars, particularly the war of 1812 with England. In this war a number of small battles between the contending forces, both on land and water, took place here. At the head of Carleton Island are the ruins of an extensive fort originally erected by the British during the Revolutionary War and named by them "Fort Haldimand." One of the most interesting events of the Patriot War of 1837 was the burning and sinking of the steamer "Sir Robert Peel" in the American channel south of Wells Island. On one of the islands was located one of the stations of the "underground railway" of the Abolitionists of Civil War times.

Although the locality goes by the name "Thousand Islands," it is well known that by actual count there are about seventeen hundred of the islands in years when the water is at minimum height, and many more than one thousand of them even at high water.

The islands vary in size from some of several thousand acres down to others of such small extent as to afford a footing only for birds. Many are entirely under water at all times, and some have been enlarged artificially to make room for the erection of summer residences thereon.

The international boundary divides them about equally. At some places the dividing water between islands of New York and Canada is so narrow that a pebble can be easily tossed across, and, in one instance, the owner of two islands, one in each country, has erected an ornamental foot-bridge connecting them.

Originally all the islands of any extent were covered with a heavy forest growth of mixed hardwood and evergreens, and many of the Canadian islands are still in an undeveloped natural condition. Nearly all of them, except a few very large islands which have been developed as farming communities, still have good tree growth.

With very few exceptions, the islands are privately owned and many of them are fully developed for residential purposes. Owners have in some instances created comfortable grounds and ornamental vistas from formerly unsightly places. Castles, pavilions and outbuildings of many kinds have been erected, imitating or at least recalling some of the beautiful and interesting places in foreign countries. Artists and architects have aided in the work, and the spirit of rivalry to outdo others has resulted in creating a park of surpassing beauty—a combination of nature and art hardly possible elsewhere.

It may be that this great outlay of wealth has not been made with a view to gratifying the eye of the tourist, but, while building and beautifying for themselves, the owners have created a panorama which cannot be hidden from anyone, as the water, at the very doors of the mansions, is a public highway, and all may enjoy the prospect provided by the owner for himself and his guests.

The beauty of the island scenery, the romantic history of the region, the purity of the air, the restfulness of the surroundings, the attractions for the sportsman, be he an angler for fish, a hunter for game, or a boat racer for excitement or glory, have been the inspiration of historians, tourists, novelists, and poets during the past hundred years, all of whom bear testimony to the virtues of the Lake of a Thousand Islands.

PUBLIC ISLAND PARKS

Throughout the Island region various islands or parts of islands and in some cases plots of land on the mainland, are maintained by the Canadian Government on one side of the International Boundary and the State of New York on the other side, for the free use of campers for recreational purposes. Some of these may be reached by automobiles and others by short water trips. Most of these parks have rock-sided, iron-topped stoves for open air cooking. In many cases suitable wharves for skiffs and motor launches are provided as well as pavilions, tables and benches for picnic and camping parties.

There is plenty of land suitable for camping and the public is encouraged to use these reservations. An official is in charge who devotes his entire time to maintaining the parks and regulating their use. The Roosevelt Memorial Highway is adjacent to the south shore of the river from Cape Vincent to Ogdensburg, and the King's Highway parallels the river on the Canadian side. Following are the names of the parks and their locations:

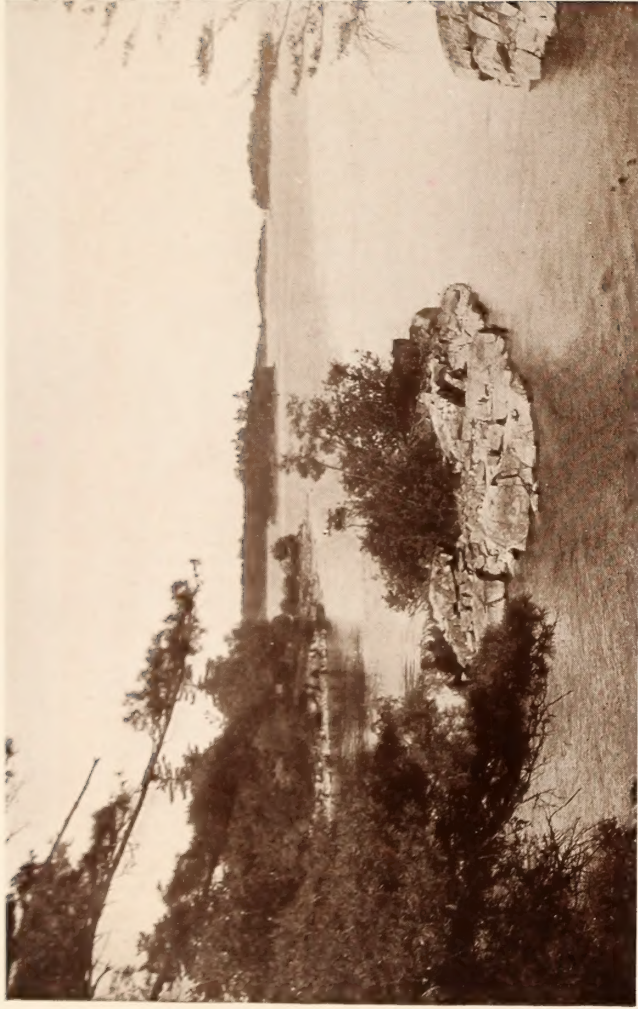
NEW YORK STATE PARKS

"Long Point" is in Chaumont Bay, which opens into Lake Ontario. *"Burnham Point"* is located about three miles from the village of Cape Vincent, and consists of 7 acres. It is located just off the Cape Vincent-Clayton State Highway, a very good location for duck hunting. *"Cedar Point"* or *"Percy's Point"* from the name of the former owner, is located about six miles west of the Village of Clayton. A road leads from the Cape Vincent-Clayton State Road, to the main grounds of the reservation. *"Canoe Point"* is at the northeasterly end of Grindstone Island, about four miles from the village of Clayton. *"Picnic Point"* and *"Squaw Point"* have nice groves and the State maintains good docks and pavilions on both. *"Watterson Point"* is about three miles northeasterly from Canoe Point on the north shore of Wells Island. *"DeWolf Point"* is located on wells Island, facing Lake of the Isles. *"Mary Island"* is near the extreme lower or northeast end of wells Island, near Westminster Park. It is about two miles by water from Alexandria Bay. *"Kring Point"* is on the main shore about five miles down the river from Alexandria Bay. *"Cedar Island"* is near Chippewa Bay, about fifteen miles from Alexandria Bay.

CANADIAN PARKS

"Aubrey" contains fifteen acres and it is two and one-half miles west of Gananoque. *"Mermaid"* contains four acres and is adjoining Aubrey. *"Beau Rivage"* contains about twelve acres and is located two miles west of Gananoque. *"Gordon"* containing eighteen acres is two miles southeast of Gananoque. *"Camelot"* contains twenty-five acres and it is located three miles southeast of Gananoque. *"Endymion"* contains ten acres and is three miles southeast of Gananoque. *"Georgina"* contains twenty-three acres and is located nine and one-half miles east of Gananoque. *"Constance"* contains seven acres and is located in close proximity to Georgina. *"Grenadier"* contains five acres and is at the west end of Grenadier Island near Rockport. *"Mallorytown Landing"* contains four acres and is twelve miles west of Brockville. A bit of this park is on the mainland. *"Adelaide"* contains four acres and is one and one-fourth miles south of Mallorytown Landing. *"Stovin"* contains five acres and is two and one-half miles west of Brockville. *"Broder"* contains eighteen acres and lies directly opposite the town of Morrisburg. *"Cedar Island"* contains twenty-three acres and is one and one-half miles east of Kingston directly opposite Fort Henry.

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VIEW NEAR WELLESLEY ISLAND



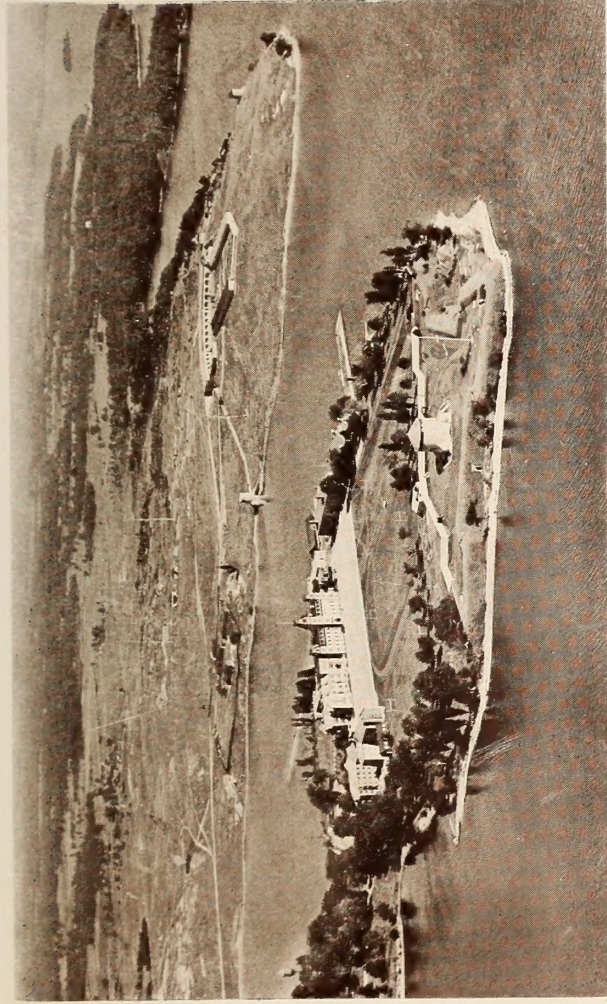
VIEW AMONG THE CANADIAN ISLANDS IN AN UNDEVELOPED REGION



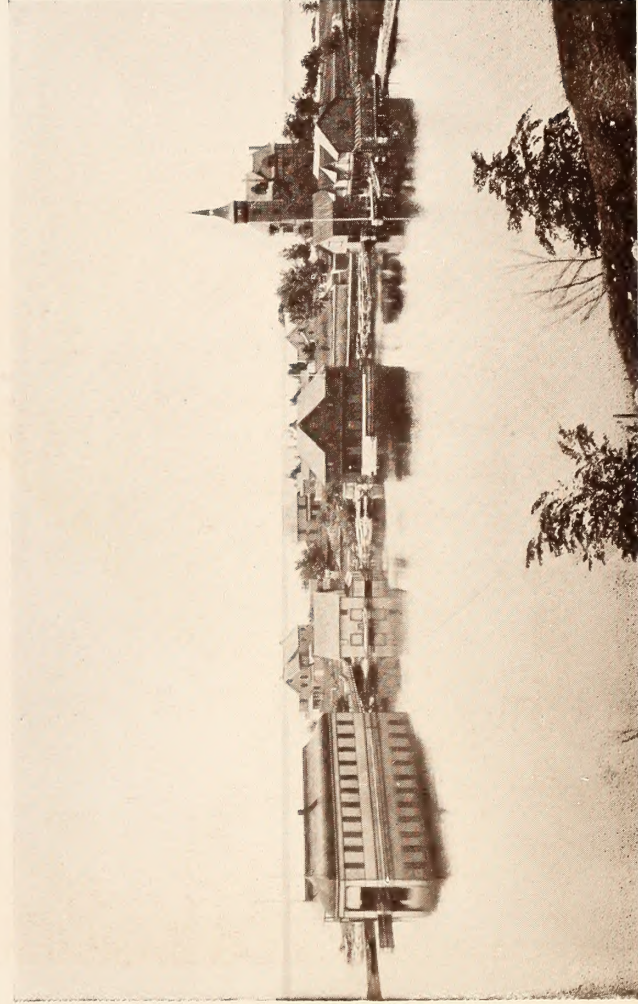
VIEW AMONG THE ISLANDS



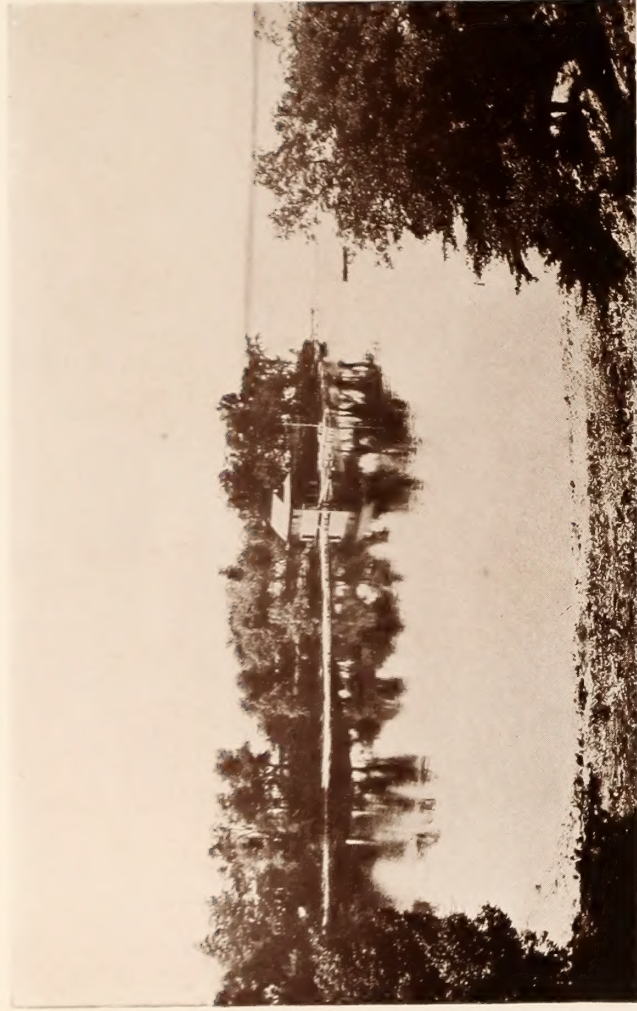
KINGSTON, ONT., FROM THE AIR



OLD FORTIFICATIONS AND ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE. KINGSTON, ONT.



SOUTH BAY, CARLETON ISLAND, CAPE VINCENT, N.Y.



NORTH BAY, CARLETON ISLAND, CAPE VINCENT, N.Y.



RIVERSIDE DRIVE, CLAYTON, N.Y.



THOUSAND ISLAND PARK



ROCK ISLAND LIGHT HOUSE



VIEW NEAR THOUSAND ISLAND PARK. ROCK ISLAND LIGHT HOUSE IN THE DISTANCE



FRONTENAC FROM LITTLE ROUND ISLAND. NEAR CLAYTON, N.Y.



SHORE NEAR FINE VIEW



PEABODY'S POINT



TOTEM LODGE



STAVE ISLAND. CANADIAN CHANNEL



THE NARROWS AND PALISADES



THE ADMIRALTY GROUP NEAR GANANOQUE, CANADA



THE ROYAL PARTY INCLUDING THE PRINCE OF WALES, PREMIER BALDWIN AND THE DUKE OF YORK
ARRIVING AT GANANOQUE, CANADA



AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION CAMP ON SUGAR ISLAND



PULPIT ROCK IN HALF MOON BAY. HERE OPEN AIR SERVICES ARE HELD SUNDAYS DURING THE SUMMER



EVENING ON THE ST. LAWRENCE



STEAMER KINGSTON



STEAMER TORONTO



OUT OF SIGHT CHANNEL, 1000 ISLANDS, CANADA



ZAVIKON ISLAND, 1000 ISLANDS-INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE CONNECTING U. S. AND CANADA



THE FOUR VIEWS JOINED MAKE A PANORAMIC VIEW



OF THE ISLANDS AS SEEN FROM ALEXANDRIA BAY



CALUMET ISLAND, CLAYTON, N. Y.



SENTINEL ISLE, 1000 ISLANDS



CORNER IN EEL BAY



TOUR BOAT IN THE LOST CHANNEL NEAR KING'S LANDING



CANADIAN MAINLAND, NEAR KING'S LANDING



OBSERVATION LAUNCH PASSING THROUGH THE CANADIAN ISLANDS



OBSERVATION LAUNCH PASSING THROUGH OUT OF SIGHT CHANNEL



PICTORIAL MAP

showing a section of the

1000 ISLANDS

Dark Sections Indicate State and Dominion Lands Maintained for Free Use of Campers.





BENSON'S RIFT. CANADIAN ISLANDS



THE DEVINE COTTAGE, CANADA. NEAR KING'S LANDING



KING'S LANDING. CANADIAN STOP-OVER POINT



STEAMER RIVERSIDE. ISLAND TOUR BOAT



VIEW FROM BOLDT CASTLE



THOUSAND ISLAND YACHT CLUB HOUSE



VIEW IN THE CANADIAN ISLANDS, 1000 ISLANDS, CANADA



LOST CHANNEL IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, THOUSAND ISLANDS, N.Y.



SUNKEN ROCK LIGHT HOUSE AND HEART ISLAND, NEAR ALEXANDRIA BAY



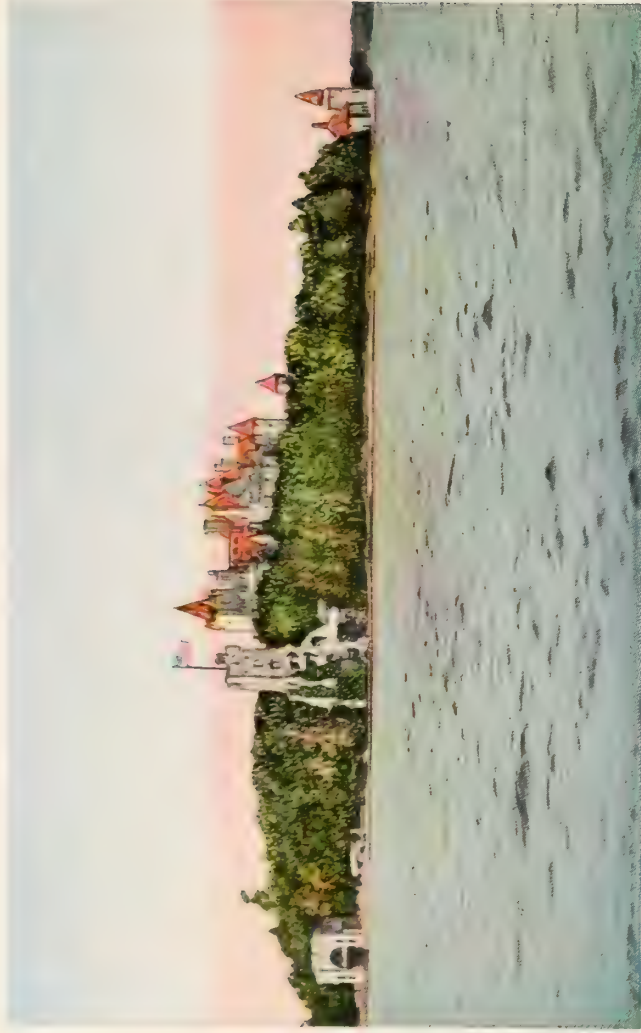
VIEW ON WELLESLEY ISLAND. BOLDT ESTATE



MOONLIGHT ON THE ST. LAWRENCE



INDIAN ROCK



HEART ISLAND AND BOLDT CASTLE, ALEXANDRIA BAY, N.Y., THOUSAND ISLANDS.



HOPEWELL HALL, ON WELLESLEY ISLAND, 1000 ISLANDS, NEAR ALEXANDRIA BAY, N.Y.



BELLE ISLE. ALEXANDRIA BAY



PULLMAN'S CASTLE REST



LOOKING UP THE RIVER FROM THOUSAND ISLAND HOUSE, ALEXANDRIA BAY, N.Y.



HEART ISLAND. BOLDT ESTATE, ALEXANDRIA BAY



THOUSAND ISLAND HOUSE, ALEXANDRIA BAY, N.Y.



CROSSMAN HOUSE, ALEXANDRIA BAY, N.Y.



CANAL ON WELLESLEY ISLAND, BOLDT ESTATE



THE SWISS CHALET, BOLDT ESTATE



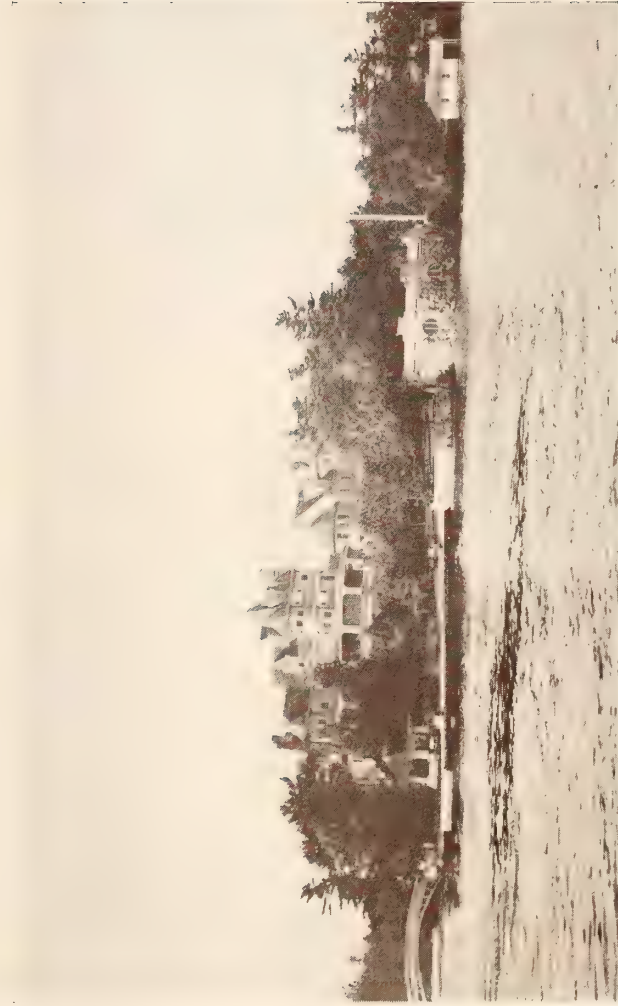
WILLOW CHANNEL, WESTMINSTER PARK



VIEW IN INTERNATIONAL RIFT



IMPERIAL ISLE, ALEXANDRIA BAY



CHERRY ISLAND



GEORGE WILLIAM AND VESTY

HOPEWELL HALL AND PULLMAN'S, AIR VIEW



ALSTER TOWER, HEART ISLAND



VIEW FROM THE EDGEWOOD HOTEL, ALEXANDRIA BAY, N.Y.



DEVIL'S OVEN ISLAND. WHILE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFERED A REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE, BILL JOHNSON REMAINED FOR SOME TIME IN HIDING IN THE "OVEN," AND WAS SUPPLIED WITH FOOD BY HIS DAUGHTER, KATE



LOOKING UP THE RIVER FROM DEVIL'S OVEN



DEER ISLAND



ROSE AND GYPSY ISLANDS FROM POINT VIVIAN



ALEXANDRIA BAY. THE HUB OF THE 1000 ISLANDS





COP'R HALLAM AND VESTY.

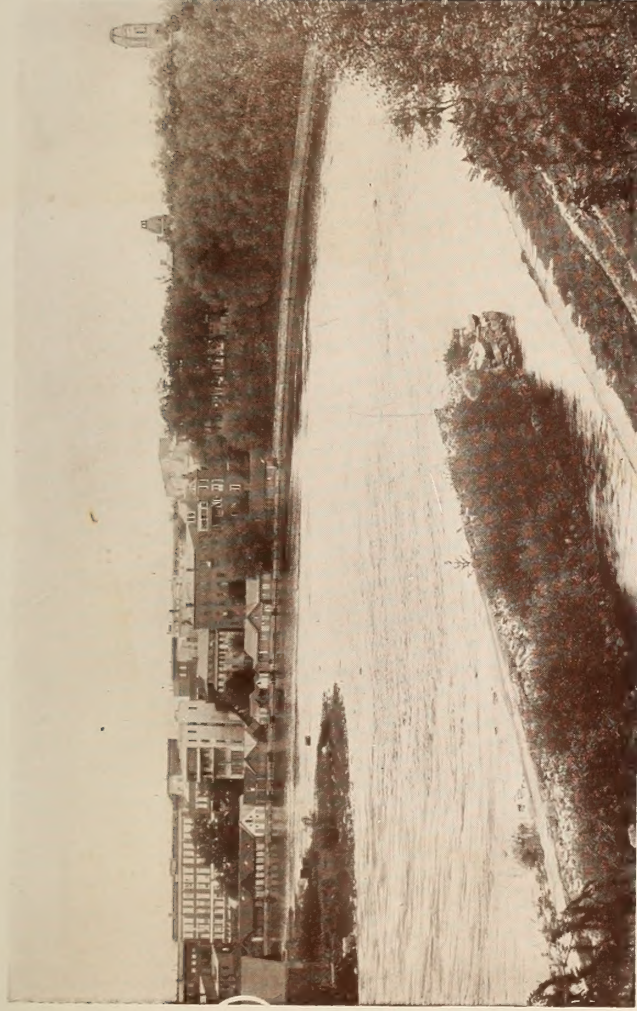
ALEXANDRIA BAY AND VICINITY FROM THE AIR



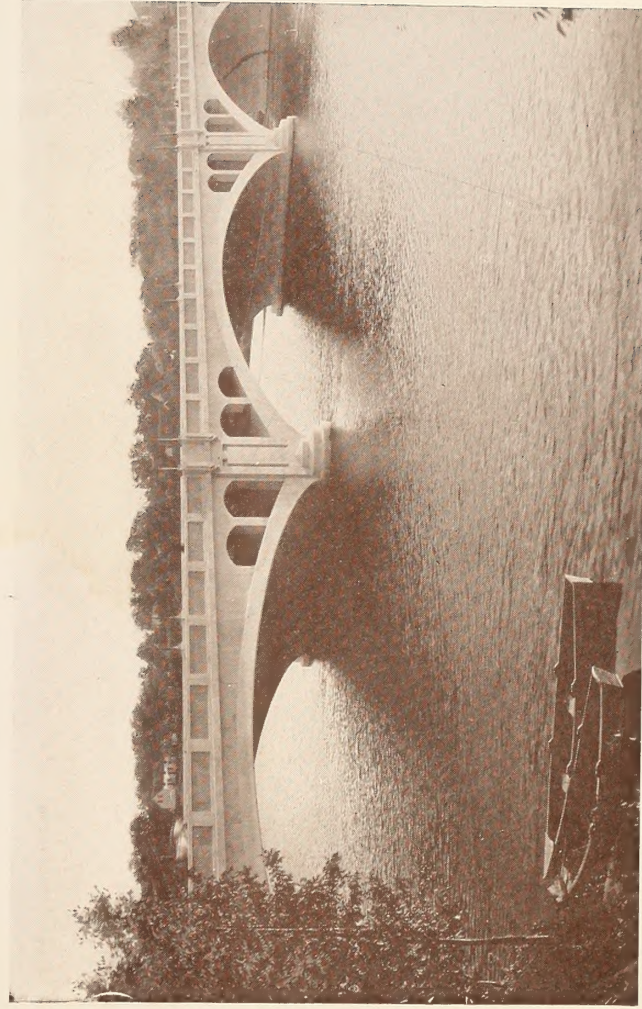
DARK ISLAND



ST. LAWRENCE PARK AND FREE TOURIST CAMP. BROCKVILLE, CANADA



THE OSWEGATCHIE RIVER, OGDENSBURG, N. Y.



NEW BRIDGE OVER OSWEGATCHIE RIVER

HAIL! River of the Thousand Isles,
Which so enchants and so beguiles,
With countless charms and countless wiles,
Flow on unpent forever free,
And pauseless to the open sea,
Which belts the globe's immensity.

HERE where the airs are always pure,
And wave and earth and sky allure,
And wisper "Let the best endure."
The wiser thoughts and instincts grow
Hearts truer feel and surer know,
And kindled to tenderer glow.

George C. Bragdon



The publishers are offering in this book the most comprehensive and interesting series of photographs ever collected in this region. Exacting care has been exercised to present pictures that will enable those who have not been fortunate enough to visit this wonderful region to form some idea of its superb natural beauty, and to bring back to the visitor the impressions created by his first trip among the Islands.

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